building, equipment, furnishing etc. Training to farmers shall be free of cost.

Annual Audit of Ministries

*458. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make annual audit of all the Ministries and Departments of Government, including the offices of the constitutional authorities, mandatory so as to keep a check on the wasteful expenditure all around; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In terms of provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 (Section 13) it is already mandatory for the C&AG to conduct the audit of all expenditure incurred from Consolidated Fund of India by all Ministries and Departments including the offices of the constitutional authorities. Annual audit reports thereon are submitted to the Parliament/Legislature concerned.

Accelerating irrigation benefits

*459. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite spending Rs. 13,823.05 crores in 24 States during 1996—2003, Government failed to achieve the intended objective of accelerating irrigation benefits due to inadequate planning and lack of co-ordination with the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the desired objectives; and

(c) the details of the irrigation projects pending as on date, State-wise, indicating their financial and physical progress?